

ALASKA TO GET \$5.6 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, Alaska will receive \$5.6 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Alaska's largest school districts, that means:

ALASKA	
ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$1,856,156
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH	591,944
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH	546,551
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH	436,011
LOWER KUSKOKWIM SCHOOL DISTRICT	347,595
LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT	238,523
JUNEAU BOROUGH SCHOOLS	167,838
BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT	158,257
NORTHWEST ARCTIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	154,297
KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH SCHOOLS	93,184
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOLS	77,431
SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS	64,003
YUKON KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT	62,474
KUSPUK SCHOOL DISTRICT	56,757
DELTA GREELY SCHOOL DISTRICT	51,418
YUKON FLATS SCHOOL DISTRICT	51,281
SITKA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	49,615
YUPIIT SCHOOL DISTRICT	43,670
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOLS	43,446
NOME CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	39,839

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.